



PRESS OFFICE

News Release

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SBA Administrator Honors Nation's Top Small Businesses

Winners to be formally recognized in Washington, D.C. on May 1-2

WASHINGTON – Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, the head of the U.S. Small Business Administration, announced today this year's Small Business Person of the Year winners from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. All of the winners have been invited to attend ceremonies in Washington, D.C. on May 1-2 where they will be awarded their individual awards along with recognition of the runners-up and the naming of the *2016 National Small Business Person of the Year*.

In making the announcement, SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet said: "It is my distinct pleasure and honor to announce the 54 winners from across the U.S. and her territories. These small business owners represent the best of the best and showcase daily their entrepreneurial spirit and what it takes to be successful in today's evolving and competitive business environment."

In Florida, Sherry Acanfora-Ruohomaki, Owner and President of K9 Kampus of Melbourne beat out the competition to win the Florida Small Business Person of the Year Award. K9 Kampus is a luxury dog daycare and boarding facility which includes full-service grooming, indoor air-conditioned training, a zero-entry pool, and nearly an acre of outdoor romping space. Since its inception nearly six years ago, Acanfora-Ruohomaki used great ingenuity and resourcefulness to grow the business not only in customers and sales, but also in the number of employees, service offerings, and physical space expansion. Acanfora-Ruohomaki helps other aspiring women entrepreneurs by volunteering as a mentor and facilitator for the Ignite Program hosted by WeVenture, an SBA Women's Business Center located on the Florida Institute of Technology; she also donates the use of K9 Kampus to Paws for Veterans and Paws for Boots, two organizations that provide dogs and training to disabled veterans.

"Sherry Acanfora-Ruohomaki is a true visionary who executed on her great idea to the benefit of herself, her family, and her community. We are pleased to celebrate her business accomplishments and contributions to our state and local economies and to our community," said Francisco A. Marrero, SBA South Florida District Director.

Each year since 1963, the president has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of National Small Business Week. National Small Business Week is set as the first week in May, and this year the dates are May 1-7 with national events planned in Washington, D.C., New York City, Atlanta, Denver, Phoenix and San Jose and Oakland, California.

“There are more than 28 million small businesses serving as the economic engine of our country, employing half of the private sector and creating two out of three net new jobs. If our small business sector was a country, its output would rank number three above Germany and Japan. I’m looking forward to welcoming these talented entrepreneurs to their nation’s capital and celebrating their stories to shine a light on American ingenuity and innovation.”

2016 Small Business Person of the Year Winners

ALABAMA

Xiomara Hernandez Bracken

Owner

Bouncing Parties, Inc.

ALASKA

Connie Core-Dubay

CEO/Owner

Cold Spot Feeds, Inc.

ARIZONA

Paul A. Smiley

President

Sonoran Technology and Professional
Services, LLC

ARKANSAS

Regina Renee Radke

CEO

Wade Stuart Radke

COO

Galley Support Innovations

CALIFORNIA

Helen Margaret Russell

Co-Founder and CEO

Brooke Jean McDonnell

Co-Founder and President

Equator Coffees and Teas, Inc.

COLORADO

Reed Howard Silberman

Founder/CEO

Ink Monstr

CONNECTICUT

Peter Newman

CEO

Victoria Newman

Executive Director

Greenwich Education Group

DELAWARE

Chris J. Bisaha
Joseph A. Baker
Co-Owners
Henlopen City Oyster House

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Robert C. Palmer
CEO
Creative Business Solutions, Inc.

FLORIDA

Sherry L. Acanfora-Ruohamaki
Owner/President
K9 Kampus LLC

GEORGIA

Catherine A. Downey
CEO
CATVIDEO, Inc.

GUAM

David J. John
President
ASC Trust Corporation

HAWAII

Raymond Jardine Jr.
Chairman & CEO
Native Hawaiian Veterans, LLC

IDAHO

Enrique F. Contreras
Ana M. Paz
Owners
Conpaz Inc. dba Enrique's Mexican Restaurant

ILLINOIS

Dwayne Steven Jackson
President & CEO
Software Tech Enterprises, Inc.

INDIANA

Baziel W. Vrient
President
Albert W. Vrient
Operations Manager
Agdia, Inc.

IOWA

Anthony D. Halsted

Owner
Hoover's Hatchery Co., LLC

KANSAS

Roger Lee Ward III
Dana Marie Ward
Owners
Great Day Moving (Marathon Moving
& Delivery LLC)

KENTUCKY

David Allen Dafoe
Founder/CEO
8th Street Ventures
Dba Flavorman, dba Distilled Spirits
Epicenter, Dba Pro-Liquitech

LOUISIANA

Angela O'Byrne
President/Owner
Perez, APC

MAINE

Margo Walsh
Owner
Maine Works LLC

MARYLAND

Patrick Babasola Munis
CEO
NewWave Telecom & Technologies, Inc.

MASSACHUSETTS

Robert Jacob George
Founder, President and CEO
StratComm, Inc.

MICHIGAN

Russell Beaver
President
RB Construction Company

MINNESOTA

Gloria Jean Freeman
CEO
Olu's Home/Olu's Center

MISSISSIPPI

Mike Pornovets
Owner
Everything Kayak LLC

MISSOURI

David Laurence Bailey
Founder & President
Baileys' Restaurants

MONTANA

Greg Thayer
CEO
Eugene Thayer
Director
Montana Merchandising, Inc.
Dba Montana Milling, Inc.

NEBRASKA

Yolanda F. Diaz
Member/Owner
Little Miss Fashion LLC

NEVADA

Bradley J. Burdsall
Owner and Operator
The Egg Works

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Elie El-Chalfoun
Owner/Operator
Mega-X

NEW JERSEY

Charles Olivo
Founder and Principal
Stonefield Engineering and Design LLC

NEW MEXICO

Karl S. Halpert
President & CEO
Private Label Select Ltd. Co.

NEW YORK

Tammy Ann Loewy
Wynde Kate Reese
Owners
Green Goddess Foods LLC

NORTH CAROLINA

Charles Ashton Creech
President
Thomas Howard Chappell
Vice President – Maintenance
Plus Team
NS Aviation, LLC dba North State Aviation

NORTH DAKOTA

Jon Simmers
CEO
Bismarck Aero Center

OHIO

Sally Hughes
CEO
Caster Connection

OKLAHOMA

Ellis "Lanny" McIntosh
Founding Principal, CEO
The McIntosh Group

OREGON

Jeremy Murfin
Geoff Mets
Johnpaul Simonet
Owners/Members
5.S.G. LLC dba Five Star Guitars

PENNSYLVANIA

Dr. Wei-Shin Lai
Chief Executive Officer
AcousticSheep LLC

PUERTO RICO

Fernando J. Rodriguez
President
Prime Janitorial Service Corp.

RHODE ISLAND

Thomas Parsons Kellogg III
President
Parsons Kellogg LLC

SOUTH CAROLINA

JoAnne Laurea LaBounty
President
Spartanburg Meat Processing Co., Inc.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Janet R. Eining
Owner
Cellular Only Connection, Inc.

TENNESSEE

Terence Andrew Douglas
President
Alliant Corporation

TEXAS

Yolanda Arriola

President and CEO
Southwest University at El Paso

UTAH

Jay Benjamin Broadbent
President
Alpine Home Medical Equipment LLC

VERMONT

Thomas M.L. Stearns
President
High Mowing Organic Seeds

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Brianne B. Beatty
Ryan B. Skinner
Owners
Flagship, LLC

VIRGINIA

Caroline Anne Taylor
RN-President
Taylor Made Diagnostics, Inc.

WASHINGTON

James “Kiwi” Ferris
President
Edensaw Woods, Ltd.

WEST VIRGINIA

Arria Hines
President & CEO
Allegheny Science & Technology Corp.

WISCONSIN

Mark Matthiae
CEO
Crystal Finishing Systems, Inc.

WYOMING

Anthony Andrew Aguiree
President
Triple A Building Services, Inc.

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